

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF JEWS AND CHRISTIANS

For Justice, Amity and Understanding between the Groups that Comprise America

Co-Chairmen

HON. NEWTON D. BAKER
PROF. CARLTON J. H. HAYES
MR. ROGER W. STRAUS

The National Conference of Jews and Christians associates a number of thoughtful and earnest people in an effort to analyze and allay the prejudices which exist between Protestants, Catholics and Jews. The Conference seeks to moderate and finally to eliminate a system of prejudices which we have in part inherited and which disfigures and distorts our business, social and political relations. To the extent that these feelings are mere prejudices, they will of course, yield only to knowledge and goodwill, and the work of the Conference can succeed only as it has the support of men and women who are themselves tolerant and who realize the vital importance of tolerance in so consolidated a civilization as we Americans now have.

NEWTON D. BAKER

EVERETT R. CLINCHY, *Director*
F. J. FULLER, *Treasurer*
Vice-Pres. Central Hanover
Bank & Trust Company

INFORMATION BULLETIN

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No. X, OCTOBER, 1931

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OPENS FALL SEASON WITH ACTIVE PROGRAM

THE new season of conferences, seminars and round table talks organized through the efforts of the National Conference of Jews and Christians is now in full swing. Beginning with a two day conference in Denver, September 29th and 30th, the plans for the next two months call for a variety of seminars, community and college conferences of Jews, Catholics, and Protestants in cities dotted over the Southwestern and Southern part of the United States.

These plans are meeting with a great deal of interest in the communities. Negotiations are being actively conducted for a program of events that will study a thorough cross section of the inter-cultural problems. Requests for representative speakers, orders for published material, and inquiries about conference technique have been coming into the National Conference offices with increasing frequency. In addition a tour has been arranged for Mr. Everett R. Clinchy, Director of the National Conference, in the course of which he will visit the cities where many goodwill meetings are to be held, to assist in the final arrangements and to participate as a speaker and discussion leader.

Rocky Mountain Seminar

The opening event of the season took place in Denver, Colorado. Sessions in the Knights of Columbus Hall, in the Protestant Fellowship Hall and in Temple Emanuel were supplemented by meetings in Colorado University in Boulder and at Denver University Chapel. Mr. Robert Paul was secretary of the Committee on Arrangements. Some of the scheduled speakers were: Professor T. R. Garth of Denver University on "Prejudice from the Standpoint of a Psychologist"; Bishop James E. Freeman of Washington, D. C., on "Living Together in a Democracy"; Rev. Charles Clingman of Birmingham, Ala.; and local leaders among whom were: Father F. W. Walsh, Rabbi C. H. Kauvar, Rev. Hugh L. M'Menamim, Rev. Wm. O'Ryan, Rev. Edw. J. Morgan, Mr. Milton M. Schayer, Mr. M. Edwin Wittelshofer, Rabbi W. S. Friedman, the Rt. Rev. Irving P. Johnson, and Rev. Ira G. McCormack.

Utah

On October 3rd a luncheon round table is scheduled at Salt Lake City at which Mr. Clinchy will speak on the program of the National Conference.

California

A combined church and college seminar has also been arranged for Los Angeles, California. Prof. R. J. Taylor of the Department of Religion, University of Southern California, is heading the seminar which provides for an all day conference at the University. An assembly will meet in Temple Bnai Brith in the evening where Mr.

"I believe that real results along lines of better Jewish Christian relationships can best be obtained through the slow progress of mutual study and education together with joint activities along lines that will be of benefit to humanity by expressions of the great ideals underlying religion."

—Roger W. Straus in a letter quoted
in "Random Thoughts".

Clinchy will speak at the invitation of Rabbi Edgar Magnin. While in this vicinity, Mr. Clinchy will also address the Trustees of the University Religious Conference of the University of California, Southern Branch.

San Francisco Bay Seminar

The East Bay Religious Fellowship Seminar will be held at Berkeley, California, October 12 and 13. Mr. Harry Kingman, Secretary, sketches the blue-prints in this way:

"Sessions will be held in International House on the University Campus in Berkeley, to which 1,000 representative Catholic, Jewish and Protestant citizens of the San Francisco Bay area will be invited. The Seminar will be sponsored by the members of the Fellowship. Additional honorary sponsors include Archbishop Hanna, President R. G. Sproul, Edgar C. Levy, Brother Leo W. H. Crocker, Mrs. S. M. Marks, Mrs. H. F. Grady, Mrs. G. W. McMaster, Provost Monroe E. Deutsch, Dr. Aurelia Reinhardt. On Monday, October 12th the sessions will begin at 10 A. M. and 2 P. M.

"There will be a dinner at the International House at 6:30. This dinner will take the place of the regular October meeting of the Fellowship. Every member of the Fellowship is asked to sacrifice as much time as possible from business on October 12th in order to participate in the discussions and to hear the addresses by such speakers as Judge I. Golden, Monseignor John W. Sullivan, Provost Monroe E. Deutsch and E. R. Clinchy. The seminar will end with a general discussion on Tuesday morning of the leading issues which have crystallized on the day preceding. On the Sunday night before the convening of the seminar Dr. McCall, a charter member of our Fellowship has given over his church to a meeting at which Dr. Coffey, Mr. E. R. Clinchy and possibly Mr. Garrett McEnery will speak. This meeting will be broadcasted and will be open to all. If fully supported by all members of the Fellowship, the seminar should prove of real significance to our communities.

"The three round tables on that day will deal with 'The Cause and Cure of Religious Prejudice'; 'Religious Conflict and Co-operation in the San Francisco Bay Area'; 'Religion in a State University'."

Arizona

October 15 is the date for the Service Club luncheon, Phoenix, Arizona, which, combined with an evening forum, will open the National Conference work, in that state. October 16, a meeting will be held at the University of Arizona, in Tucson.

(Continued on last page)

NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

International Student Convention The racial problems of students throughout the world formed the basis of one of the sessions of the International Students Service Convention which was held last month in Holyoke, Mass. Representatives of thirty-nine countries participated in the convention at which it was pointed out that sixty-five per cent of the students in Germany were members of the anti-Semitic National Socialist Party led by Adolf Hitler.

Hans Schultz, president of the German Student Federation, stated that the anti-Semitic outbreaks in the German universities are the result of internal politics in the colleges and have nothing to do with the politics of the country. At the same time he defended German anti-Semitism as of an "intellectual character".

James Parkes, Secretary of the International Student Service and author of the recently published book on "The Jew and His Neighbor", countered with the statement that "the pseudo-scientific racial plasmic theories are invented chiefly by Germans to bolster anti-Semitism. Jews are actually being pushed out from the German universities because the German middle class is forced to seek professional careers".

* * *

As a Jew Sees Jesus The appearance of Rabbi Ernest R. Trattner's book, "As a Jew Sees Jesus", recently published by Scribner's is the latest addition to a growing library of Jewish estimates of Jesus that has developed in recent years. "For nineteen hundred years," the author confesses "Jewish history, as wide as it is voluble, has been provokingly silent concerning the most influential Jew the world has ever seen." The recent tide of Jewish literature on the subject promises to more than make up for the paradox of the historical silence.

The change is all the more interesting since it indicates not only a new *interest* in Jesus of Nazareth but a new *attitude*. Jewish history contains few references to the founder of Christianity but the Jewish attitude, which has crept into its folklore, has been marked by fear and mistrust. Only now does this view appear to be changing.

It is influenced on the one hand by the new approach among Christians who are no longer reluctant to admit the Jewishness of Jesus. Heretofore this historical truth has been soft pedalled. An amusing indication of this characteristic of the Christian world of yesterday is the opinion given by an Italian parochial school student who solved the problem of Jesus' nationality with the explanation that "Jesus was born a Jew but when he grew up he became an Italian".

On the other hand Jews themselves, released to an increasing extent from the accusation of "Christ killers" have come to re-examine the character of Jesus as a Jewish prophet in the milieu of the confused Jewish life of the period. Rabbi Trattner's book is a welcome indication of the new attitude; it is all the more welcome in that it is an excellent appraisal of both Jesus and the modern Jewish liberal who examines His life and ideals.

* * *

Prejudice Against Teachers According to survey recently conducted by Clyde R. Miller, director of the Bureau of Educational Service, Teacher's College, Columbia University, there is a widely existing prejudice against the employment of school teachers on grounds of race and religion. Competent teachers fail to obtain vacancies on school staffs because they are Catholics or Jews or Unitarians or because they do not appear to be "Nordics". "Of course in most places," Mr. Miller declared, "it is next to impossible for people not of the white race to obtain positions. Very often when our bureau receives a call to fill an opening in some school or college, the religion desired is very definitely designated."

Chicago Good-will Conference General John F. O'Ryan, Professor Parker T. Moon, Rabbi Louis Mann, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, Dr. S. Parkes Cadman and Justice Florence Allen are among Catholic, Jewish and Protestant leaders who are participating in the work of the International Good Will Conference which will meet in Chicago, November 10, 11 and 12. Among the items on the agenda are the proposed Disarmament Conference, the Kellogg Briand Pact and the World Court.

* * *

Religion at the Chicago Exposition A committee of eighteen including Jews, Catholics and Protestants has been invited to participate in the 1933 Exposition of Progress to be held in Chicago and to work on the religious element of the exposition. It is expected that the work will be integrated with the general interpretation of social development.

Mr. George W. Dixon is chairman of the committee.

* * *

Ignorance Among Children A surprisingly large amount of religious prejudice and ignorance about faiths other than their own has been found among over a thousand children between the ages of six and twelve. A report containing the results of an investigation was recently issued by Dr. Adelaide T. Case, professor of education at Teacher's College, Columbia University.

In commenting on the findings, Dr. Case attacked the public school system which permitted the existence of such varied prejudices as were discovered in the children to whom tests were given. "How can there be any religious tolerance and true understanding when youngsters of nine and ten have such bitter and intolerant ideas of the other religions?" Dr. Case commented. "Not only do we find a marked misunderstanding between Jewish and Christian but between Catholic and Protestant children as well. Too often these ignorances and prejudices are carried throughout the adult life. It's a disgrace to allow these intolerant prejudices to develop and grow".

* * *

Science and Race Superiority Speaking at one of the round table conferences of the sessions of the Institute of Politics at Williamstown, Mass., Professor Otto Kleinberg of Columbia University was emphatic in his declaration that there was almost no scientific proof of the innate superiority of any one race of men over any other. There are differences, he explained, due to heredity and environment but it remains to be determined just how much the important temperamental differences between groups are due to culture and how much to race.

In view of the inextricable mixture of the so-called "Nordic" race, Professor G. M. Stratton who participated in the conference added, it is sheer nonsense to talk of their purity at all.

* * *

At the University of Colorado For the first time in its history the University of Colorado is opening its religious activities Sunday night, October 4th, with a combined social mass meeting of Jews, Catholics and Protestants. Mr. Clinchy had a round table of students, on September 27th, at which the subject of Human Relations was discussed.

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Jewish Holy Days Information Just before the recent Jewish Holy Days, 1,049 ministers in Protestant churches scattered across the United States received descriptions of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur from the Committee on Goodwill between Jews and Christians, of the Federal Council of the Churches. The suggestion was made that a sermon or address might be made on the subject, purposing to cultivate Christian appreciation of contemporary Jewry. Resource material was suggested, and pamphlets were enclosed in the mailing. Reports indicate that a large number of ministers acted upon the suggestion.

A TYPICAL PROGRAM

The following program of the Conference Seminar at the University of Southern California is typical of the activities arranged for those events in co-operation with the National Conference. In subject matter and in the organization of the details of the Seminar the program, reprinted below, offers a guide that should prove helpful in the planning of similar events.

APPRECIATION OF AMERICAN CULTURE

Problems presented by inter-faith group relations in American life and their solutions

A Conference Seminar of Catholics, Jews, and Protestants

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Bowne Room of Mudd Memorial Hall of Philosophy

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1931

2:00—Registration

2:15—MR. THOMAS S. EVANS, Presiding

Executive Secretary, University Religious Conference
University of California at Los Angeles

Address—REV. EVERETT R. CLINCHY, New York City

Director National Conference of Jews and Christians

2:45 to 5:00—Quest Groups

Quest Group No. 1. Common Elements and Divisive
Attitudes in Inter-faith Group Relations

Leader—DR. E. S. BOGARDUS,

Professor of Sociology, University of Southern
California

Place—Argonaut's Hall

Quest Group No. 2. Problems of Jewish and Christian
Culture

Leader—RABBI EDGAR MAGNIN, B'nai B'rith Temple,
Los Angeles

Place—Bowne Room, Mudd Memorial

Quest Group No. 3. Factors Essential to Fair-minded
Appreciation of Cultural Differences

Leader—REV. CHARLES C. CONATY,

Director Newman Club, University of California,
at Los Angeles

REV. W. E. CORR, Ph.D. St. Elizabeth Church,
Pasadena

Place—President's Suite, Administration Building

7:30, Room 5, Mudd Memorial

5:30—Dinner. REV. MARTIN J. O'MALLEY, C.M., S.T.D., pre-
siding Pastor St. Vincent Church

Music. College of Music, University of Southern
California

Does Loyalty to an Institution Imply at Least some
Degree of Ill-will to Some Rival?

REV. MARSHALL C. WINNE, C.M., S.T.D.

President Los Angeles Junior Seminary

REV. EVERETT R. CLINCHY

7:30 to 8:30—Second Session of the Quest Groups

8:30—Final General Meeting. Judge Isaac Patsch, presiding
Reports of the Findings of the Quest Groups.

It is desirable that application for preferred Quest Group be
made in advance of the formal opening of the seminar, as the
enrollment in each will be limited.

Reservations for the dinner must be made in advance. Fifty
cents.

*For Justice, Amity, and Understanding between the many
groups that comprise America.*

NOTES UPON READINGS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

THE predominant idea in human relations that many Protestants, Catholics, and Jews are beginning to see is the inter-relatedness of cultural groups. The consequences in changed social attitudes that the idea of human inter-relatedness is bound to effect, can be appreciated only in the light of history.

Franz Boas, in "Anthropology and Modern Life", pictures primitive inter-group relations.

In the early days of mankind, Boas writes, small groups of human beings were scattered here and there; the members of each horde were one in speech, one in customs, one in beliefs. They were held together by the strong bands of habit.

Beyond the limits of each group's hunting grounds lived other groups, different in speech, different in customs, perhaps different even in appearance, whose very existence was a source of danger. They acted in a different manner; their reasoning and feeling were unintelligible; they had no part in the interests of the horde. Thus they stood opposed to it as beings of another kind, with whom there could be no community of interest. To harm them, if possible to annihilate them, was a self-evident act of self-preservation.

But, Boas goes on to say, the tendency to form closed societies is not by any means confined to primitive tribes. It exists to a marked extent in our own civilization, and to a certain extent closed societies cannot exist without antagonisms.

The principles that hold societies together vary enormously, but common to all of them is the feeling of antagonism against other parallel groups. Perhaps one of the most striking illustrations of this tendency in the present life of the United States is the assignment of anyone with a Jewish name to an undesirable group whose members are, according to the fancy of the owner, not allowed to dwell in certain buildings, not admitted in hotels or clubs, and are in other ways discriminated against by the unthinking who can see in the individual solely the representative of a class.

Such unreasoning inter-group antipathy, according to Boas, can be broken down if we succeed in creating among young children social fellowships which have principles of cohesion that weld the larger grouping into a whole. It will not be easy to establish such groups under the pressure of present popular feeling. Nevertheless, cultural co-operation cannot be reached without it.

And Boas would take this course in the inter-relation of races and nations, also.

Inter-relatedness between Protestants, Catholics, and Jews does not call for religious amalgamation. Nor does it mean that a Catholic will be less a Catholic or a Jew will be less a Jew. It is simply the awareness of larger social relationships, as citizens. It leads to a recognition of the privileges and responsibilities of a world society.

"A society," as John Dewey defines it, "is a number of people living together because they are working along common lines, in a common spirit, and with reference to common aims. The common needs and aims demand a growing interchange of thought and growing unity of sympathetic feeling". In a sense it is correct for a Jew to define his society as Jewish; for a Catholic to speak of his society as Catholic, and for a Protestant to refer to his immediate fellowship. Nevertheless, the idea of worldhood is just as real as the idea of neighborhood. The situation in which Jews, Catholics, and Protestants find themselves in the United States today demands something more in inter-group relations than the patterns by which primitive hordes lived. As citizens in a democracy, working along common lines, with reference to common aims in the American spirit, these groups must work out the cohesion for which this larger society calls.

—E. R. C.

THE NATIONAL SEMINAR

Hotel Willard, Washington, D. C.

February 2-3, 1932.

"Religious Liberty and Mutual Understanding"

ENTHUSIASTIC co-operation on the part of a group of national leaders who are sponsoring the enterprise, and of professional leaders who will direct the round table discussions, promises to make the National Seminar to be held in Washington, February 2-3, 1932, a great occasion for the nation.

In response to an invitation from Newton D. Baker, one of the three co-chairmen of the National Conference, a National Committee of Sponsors is being formed. The Committee of Sponsors now includes Nicholas Murray Butler, Cleveland E. Dodge, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, Arthur Curtiss James, Frederick P. Keppel, James MacDonald, Dwight W. Morrow, Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Bernard J. Rothwell, Alfred E. Smith, Harold H. Swift, Paul M. Warburg, William Allen White. Names are being added constantly and the full list will be made available at the time of the Seminar.

The principal and closing address will be given by Mr. Baker. Mr. Roger W. Straus and Professor Carlton J. H. Hayes, the other co-chairmen, will also address full sessions of the seminar. Dr. Cyrus Adler, chairman of the American Jewish Committee has consented to speak at the opening session when the American experience with religious liberty will be considered. Other speakers are to be announced later.

It is expected that there will be a total registration from various parts of the country of 500 to 600 persons and that attendance at sessions to which the public will be invited will be considerably larger.

The chairman of the discussions of the Seminar will be Professor William H. Kilpatrick of Teachers' College, Columbia University one of the most noted educators in the United States, author of numerous works on educational method and the philosophy of education, and one of the best known among university teachers and lecturers. Professor Kilpatrick has also consented to supervise the editing of a data book which will be mailed in advance to all who register for the Seminar.

Monday, February 1st, will be devoted to a series of pre-Seminar conferences. It is expected that masters and faculty members of preparatory schools will meet, and that other groups will be those interested in developing goodwill and understanding in the colleges and universities, the service clubs, women's organizations, etc. Special committees will be in charge of these conferences.

The National Seminar will be the culmination of a series of about a score of collegiate, community and regional seminars to be held this fall by the National Conference. The national meeting will open with discussions of the American experience with religious liberty, which seems appropriate because it will be held close to the celebration of the Washington Bi-Centennial. But linked with religious liberty will be the idea of mutual understanding because the constituency of the National Conference seems to be committed to the idea that "religious liberty is not enough"; that it is frequently only a negative matter, like "tolerance"; that religious groups must not only be free to pursue their faith and practices, but also that they must have channels of communication between them; that understanding is certainly possible; that some forms of community co-operation are possible and desirable.

In general, the Washington Seminar will be devoted to a search for the educational means or the eradication of the prejudices which disfigure and distort our social, economic and civic relations. The sequence of the discussions at round tables is expected to be as follows:

- A. Situations in American Communities, involving such as:
 - Isolation and Indifference in the Relations of Religious Groups.
 - Difficulties and Antipathies in the Relations of Religious Groups.
 - Difficulties of Community Co-operation.
 - Vocational Discriminations Because of Religion.
 - Which of the difficulties experienced are due to social contacts, in which religious differences are only incidental?
 - Which are due to real differences of religious belief and of the ethical concepts that arise from them?
 - Which are due to ignorance and prejudice?
- B. The Origins of Prejudices and Antipathies.
 - The Processes By Which Attitudes Change.
 - The Processes of Attaining Fairmindedness.
- C. What Can Be Done in Community Programs:
 1. How can religious education be improved?
 2. What is a practical program of adult education for a local synagogue and church?
 3. How can vocational discriminations because of religion be reduced and eliminated?
 4. What mutual enterprises are practical? What are the limitations of community co-operation?

A SPECIAL budget of \$1,775 must be raised in order to carry through the Seminar. About half of this amount has been paid or pledged by a group of the members of the National Committee of Sponsors. Additional contributions or pledges are therefore needed. Checks should be made payable to F. J. Fuller, Treasurer, and mailed to the office of the Conference.

Readers of this Bulletin who wish to have the program of the National Seminar mailed to them need simply notify the office of the Conference.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OPENS FALL SEASON

(Continued from first page)

Texas

A seminar along the lines generally held at Colleges and Universities will take place October 18 and 19 at the University of Texas at Austin. Rabbi Samuel H. Baron of the Bnai Brith Hillel Foundation is in charge of the arrangement of the event which will include round table discussions, a union service and a mass meeting of the student body. The University Religious Workers are co-operating actively towards the success of this seminar.

Mr. Clinchy's next stop over in his itinerary will be at Dallas, Texas, where a community seminar program is now being worked out by a group headed by Rabbi David Lefkowitz. While in Dallas, Mr. Clinchy, will lecture before the Southern Methodist University. Two days later he will speak before a group at Tulane University and participate in a community seminar that is now being arranged for New Orleans, Louisiana.

As the final city of his tour Mr. Clinchy has been invited to Birmingham, Alabama where a community seminar will be held on October 26th and 27th. Among those who are expected to participate in its sessions are Rev. Henry M. Edmonds of the Independent Presbyterian Church, Dr. Morris Newfield of Temple Emanuel, Dr. W. R. Hendrix, Dr. Charles Klingman, all of Birmingham and Dr. Nathan Krass of Temple Emanuel, New York.

Plans for November include a Wellesley Seminar for Women to be held November 10th and 11th; a Round Table Conference at Dickinson College on November 12th and a seminar to take place in Paterson, New Jersey.